

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 750

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
Tuckers Crossroads School.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those outstanding rural schools that have a long and distinguished history of providing quality education to our children while also having contributed significantly to the history and heritage of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Tuckers Crossroads School in Wilson County is most assuredly one such great institution of learning; 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school operating at its present location; and

WHEREAS, this happy occasion is being observed by the good people of Tuckers Crossroads on May 3, 2014, with a celebration that is being conducted by former students, Jolie White Britt and Beth Turnbull Petty; and

WHEREAS, former Tuckers Crossroads teachers, Ina Neal and Doretha Wright, are steering the efforts of a historian committee that is compiling a memory book and a *100-Year Cookbook*; and

WHEREAS, the 100-Year Celebration will feature delicious food prepared by the present Tuckers Crossroads School cafeteria staff, a talent show to showcase the school's tradition of musical artistry, and one of the community's most beloved and longstanding traditions, a cakewalk; and

WHEREAS, in 1857, Jarratt Tucker served as the first Tuckers Crossroads postmaster; the school derived its name from this family, who also owned a store centrally located in the community at the four crossroads; and

WHEREAS, the Tuckers Crossroads community has a revered heritage of humble, yet determined, agricultural forefathers who placed much emphasis on education; and

WHEREAS, the lineage of education at Tuckers Crossroads can be traced back to 1856, when a subscription school was started in the community; records document that Nashville newspapers advertised private subscription to the school, which was called Union Academy; and

WHEREAS, in 1894, a one-room subscription school was housed on the Neal property on Big Springs Road, and in 1908, classes began to be held in the Scruggs building, which is now the site of the Crossroads Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, at the request of patrons of the Tuckers Crossroads School, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Waters operated and taught at a four-month subscription school with an enrollment of over forty pupils; and

WHEREAS, each school year, the number of grades taught and students enrolled continued to increase, and in 1921, a school was built on the current site, funded by private subscription and \$1,000 provided by the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, by 1923, Tuckers Crossroads was a four-year fully accredited high school and an eight-grade elementary school, and the school had graduated three classes with four-year high school diplomas; in that same year, Tuckers Crossroads hosted its first school for African American students; and

WHEREAS, also in 1923, W. H. Waters, then principal of the school, was recognized for his exemplary leadership and was elected Wilson County Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, in both 1924 and 1928, the school burned, and county funds replaced the building on both occasions; and

WHEREAS, in facing these obstacles, Tuckers Crossroads residents demonstrated their perseverance as they rallied to find ways for learning to continue in the community; classes were held in local churches and even in Road Commission tents in neighboring fields; and

WHEREAS, around that same time, some of the African American farmers in the community saw the need to expand their community school and began to solicit money to raise their share of the necessary building funds; in 1928, the County, with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund, erected a one-room school building for African Americans, and those men saw a dream come to fruition; and

WHEREAS, in 1940, Tuckers Crossroads School started serving hot lunches; the longevity of the school's cafeteria managers and their delicious home cooking have become legendary elements of community history; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, the Tuckers Crossroads Parent Teacher Association was organized; this worthy organization is still going strong, and the current PTO was the first financial sponsor of the 100-Year Celebration; and

WHEREAS, despite the hardships of the Great Depression and World War II, the community continued to rally in support of education; residents made makeshift buses to transport students, and teachers taught at lower rates of pay, as the need for enlightenment continued to be of great importance to both parents and students; and

WHEREAS, at this time, subjects taught included geography, history, arithmetic, reading, and health; students also enjoyed a weekly Bible devotion class, as well as music lessons; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, another room was added to the African American school at Tuckers Crossroads. Other improvements included two teachers, a pump and fountain, space for a lunch room and cloak room, and bus service; the African American school closed in 1959 when the two schools united and became integrated; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the school burned once again, and with almost 100% support from the Wilson County Court, the County Board of Education voted to build a modern school building to provide for the needs of the Tuckers Crossroads community and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the new school was a beautiful brick building with electric heat, indoor restrooms, a modern kitchen, and two new classrooms; this building remains and over the

years, has undergone multiple renovations and additions totaling more than three million dollars; and

WHEREAS, for a full century, the Tuckers Crossroads School has grown and thrived, now boasting an enrollment of more than 400 students, thanks to the outstanding leadership and devoted teaching of its professional educators; many of the present teachers' parents and grandparents attended the school, and they have chosen to remain in this close-knit community; and

WHEREAS, in the 1920s, J. Hall Grime, former Tuckers Crossroads principal, said, "Credit for the success attained by the students who have gone out of the school, in large measure must be given to the homes and parentage from which they came. Tuckers Crossroads is one of the fine rural communities in Wilson County and is made up of substantial, honest and hardworking citizens."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grime's statement still rings true today; Tuckers Crossroads produces high school students who continue to excel in Senior Superlative Awards and Academic Honors, and adults who have graduated from the school hold high-ranking positions in the community as government and elected officials, as well as corporate businessmen; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that during this, the 100<sup>th</sup> year of quality education in the community, both the Lebanon High School valedictorian and salutatorian are former Tuckers Crossroads students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni of Tuckers Crossroads School in commemorating the school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its present location and extend our best wishes to these fine folks for much fun and fellowship at the 100-Year Celebration on May 3, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.